## Message Text

## LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01118 121920Z ACTION EB-08

R 121415Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6238
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MAPUTO 1118

JOHANNESBURG PLEASE PASS TO REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIS, MZ, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-MOZAMBIQUE FISHING AGREEMENT

REF: MAPUTO 1090

1. PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL WAS TRANSPOSED. PARAGRAPH SHOULD READ QUOTE: THE SOVIETS WILL COMPENSATE THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT FOR FISHING RIGHTS IN TERRITORIAL WATERS IN ONE OF TWO WAYS: EITHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL RECEIVE 10-15 PERCENT OF THE CATCH OUTRIGHT (DEPENDING ON TYPE OF FISH), OR MOZAMBIQUE'S NEW NATIONAL MARINE PRODUCTS ENTERPRISE WILL BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO BUY THE MAJORITY OF THE CATCH (PRESUMABLY AT A FAVORABLE PRICE). UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TO LOCAL OBSERVERS THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIETS ARE GETTING BY FAR THE BETTER BARGAIN. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS SAID THAT THE SOVIET CATCH WOULD MEET THE GOAL OF SUPPLYING MOZAMBIQUE DOMESTIC FISH NEEDS, THERE IS A LUCRATIVE EXPORT POTENTIAL, WHICH APPEARS TO BE GOING TO THE SOVIETS, RATHER THAN THE GPRM WHICH BADLY NEEDS THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE. OTHER SO-CALLED ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE USSR AND MOZAMBIQUE REPORTEDLY REQUIRE FEW SACRIFICES ON THE

PART OF THE SOVIETS. TECHNICIANS ARE PAID PREMIUM WAGES IN SCARCE HARD CURRENCY AND THE SOVIET-MOZAMBIQUE COMMERCIAL AIR AGREEMENT WAS WRITTEN AS A NO-LOSE PROPOSITION FOR MOSCOW, WHILE THE MOZAMBICANS WERE PAYING AEROFLOT HARD CURRENCY FOR THE TICKETS PURCHASED IN ESCUDOS BY MOZAMBICANS. THE FISHING-FLEET AGREEMENT SEEMS TO BE ANOTHER CASE OF MOSCOW CASHING IN ON ITS PRIVILEGED POSITION AS MILITARY SUPPLIER FOR COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE.

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## Message Attributes

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